

ER-20-3266/a

27 May 1960

Honorable Clair Engle
United States Senate
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Senator Engle:

I have your letter of 13 May 1960 forwarding a copy of a telegram which you received from the Honorable Kenneth Hahn, Supervisor of District Two of the county of Los Angeles, California.

In his letter to you, Mr. Hahn mentions correspondence which he sent to you and other members of the Congress last fall regarding statements made by Soviet Premier Khrushchev during his visit to Los Angeles. Copies of these letters were forwarded to us for comment by more than 15 sources in the Congress. At that time, I indicated that Khrushchev's comments concerning intelligence activities and specifically the Central Intelligence Agency, in our mind, represented part of a deliberate campaign to discredit U.S. intelligence and thus leave a clearer field for communist subversion. Khrushchev obviously would like to deprive the U.S. of one of its principal weapons for combating communism. As you know, Khrushchev has stated that Moscow has not renounced and will not change its objective that all the nations of the free world should and shall become Communist.

As far as Khrushchev's specific claims are concerned, I pointed out that one of his motives was to draw out any information that an official reply or action might supply. As far as we are concerned, Khrushchev has not secured much comfort out of us in this respect; in fact, nothing comparable to what we have gained from Soviet defectors and agents.

As far as the general communications systems of the U.S. Government are concerned, they are protected between sender and recipient by a variety of means, none of which were made suspect by Khrushchev's remarks. We are constantly calculating the protection given to such communications by the inherent security of the devices used and are constantly alert to interpret and exploit any information which would alter our calculations. Khrushchev's remarks were limited to matters which did not give us any new information of this sort.

I discussed this matter with Ambassador Lodge who said he reminded Khrushchev about his offer to document his claims with copies of the secret messages but Khrushchev never did supply the documents.

In general, we would say that for the United States to react to Khrushchev's remarks as certain quarters have suggested would be to play into the hands of the Soviets.

Sincerely,

Allen V. Dulles
Director

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